GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:265
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAYS
DUKHA BHAGAT;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry has taken a number of steps during the last two years to improve the railways' financial health and operational efficiency and to enhance safety and security of the passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has tried to generate internal resources for the development and expansion of the capital intensive system;

(c) whether the RailTel Corporation of India and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation were established as independent profit making centers under the Ministry during 2001; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these measures have improved the financial health and efficiency of Railways?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 BY PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT AND SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.03.2002 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAYS.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has taken steps to contain expenditure and enhance earnings so as to improve the operational efficiency of the Railways and to generate internal resources for projects. Many steps have also been taken to enhance safety and security, including the setting up of a Special Railway Safety Fund for renewal and replacement of over-aged assets in a time-bound manner.

In order to provide enhanced security to passengers, a proposal for amending the RPF Act and Indian Railways Act for greater empowerment of the RPF, is under consideration.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. These Corporations have been set up in 2001 and are in a nascent stage. Benefits to the Railways, financial and otherwise, are expected in due course.